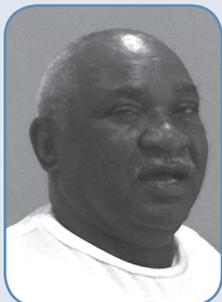


ALUMNI EDITION

By: Mary Beth Ramey

Where are they now? If you were to pose that question to any of VMC's case managers they would smile and say: "who would you like to know about?" You see, the care and concern of VMC case managers goes far beyond just helping a homeless person into housing. The relationship that was established continues for a long time after that person has achieved housing. Our goal is not just to help someone into housing; but also to help them achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency.

The following are three alumni stories. There are many more, however, for some of our neighbors (clients) their stories are too painful to share openly. We respect their privacy.



*Glenn Jackson
moved into his
apartment in 2006*

My first interview in this series was with Glenn Jackson. Glenn is a kind man who had a long history of addiction. He began using drugs at the age of 17. He suffered from depression and spent 40 years on the streets. In 2006, VMC case manager Megan Lappas reached out to Glenn resulting in Glenn joining the VMC programs. He worked hard to get into housing and moved into his own apartment in the Western Heights community. Once in housing, Glenn stopped using drugs and worked on his addiction. He became a member of Wilder Street Baptist Church, joined the choir and became an usher. Glenn's passion for helping others to overcome addictions was evident and he began conducting NA (narcotics anonymous) meetings in the church basement. He continued to be a guide in NA meetings and for a couple of years conducted those in the VMC Resource Center as well.

Over the last 9 years, Glenn has maintained employment. He worked for 4 years in the Senior Companion Program and then decided to have his own lawn care service, which he continues to do.

Glenn is a different person today than he was prior to coming to VMC. He acknowledges the bad choices he made when he was younger and uses those experiences to help others overcome their addictions. He has proven himself to be a productive, caring

citizen of our community. And, he is grateful to VMC and his case manager, Megan Lappas, for helping him change his life.



*John Craig
moved into his
apartment in 2011*

My next interview was with John Craig who came to VMC in 2011. He had lost his good paying job and his home, and was living in his van. John is a hard worker and a smart man, but it was tough finding a job during the recession. With the help of VMC case manager, Jered Croom, and a lot of determination and perseverance, John was able to move into an apartment at Isabella Towers where he still lives today.

John has been a model tenant and his leadership skills were put to use when he was selected to serve as Assistant Secretary and then Vice President of the Tenant Association Committee, a position he held for 1-1/2 years. Although he has some health issues, John is not on disability and prefers to work even if it is part time. He feels his age is the reason he never gets a call back from the many job applications he submits. So, now he makes hand-made notepads and CD covers to sell.

John is grateful for the assistance he received from VMC and his case manager, Jered. He made friends at VMC and was treated with dignity and respect. He hopes that our community will change their attitude toward the homeless and formerly homeless and not stereotype them. He has been called a "second class citizen" and when people in cars see him waiting for a trolley they "roll up their windows and lock their doors". John appreciates what he had before he became homeless. He appreciates more what he now has after being homeless.

Last, but not least of all, was my interview with Tracey Green. Tracey is a personable woman with a lot of determination, but her life has been one of hardship and sadness. She married her childhood sweetheart and is the mother of a lovely daughter.



*Tracey Green
moved into her
apartment in 2013*

continued on page 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



"I found this key chain in his desk drawer among other treasured items."

Life is the greatest teacher of all, so it is often said. Yet the consequences of some of life's lessons can be difficult at best, and harsh at worst. The Resource Center is a place where some of our neighbors are struggling, not only to find a permanent residence, but also with the residual of lost opportunities and separation from family and loved ones.

Such was the case for Jeff (not his real name).

A life long struggle with an addictive disorder created barriers between him and his family. He had hurt them too many times and for far too long. As a result, his family found it very difficult to be involved in his life.

Jeff came to the Resource Center during the summer of 2014 seeking to overcome his experience of homelessness. With the support of the staff of the Resource Center and his case manager, Jeff signed a lease to his apartment in early January, 2015. Recently, the manager of the apartment complex called to inform Jeff's case manager that Jeff had died of natural causes and VMC was listed as his one and only emergency contact. Given Jeff's total estrangement from his own family, VMC was the only "family" connection remaining.

Jeff's case manager went to the apartment to help with packing

and securing the personal effects and making sure what little estate remained was properly accounted for and documented. It was during this time that the case manager found a lightly worn VMC key chain in a desk drawer.

"I found this key chain in his desk drawer," the case manager explained. "This drawer must have been a treasured place for it was among his wallet, family pictures, and other mementos. Since the keychain had no keys and was in such a treasured place it must have served another purpose other than a key chain. It must have meant something more."

Through the first six months of 2015, forty-nine (49) individuals have acquired a permanent residence of their own through the Resource Center. Upon signing a lease, every individual receives a VMC key chain which serves both a practical purpose and a connectional reminder. The practical purpose is obvious but the reminder is that the individual remains connected to VMC for support during the transition into housing. The connection is also a powerful "key" to the success of maintaining housing as well.

Your support is vital and essential in assisting individuals like Jeff to find a place of their own. The remaining months of Jeff's life meant that it was one of dignity. I am ever so grateful that you have joined us in the effort of giving key chains for treasured places like a new home. Your gifts and donations are treasured keys to the extension of compassion, the ethic of accountability, and real results.

ALUMNI EDITION

CONTINUED

Life was normal for Tracey until her mother died. Six months later, her husband died. That's when her world fell apart. Tracey attempted to cope with her grief by drinking. She tried to work but didn't have a car so her opportunities for employment diminished. Over time, Tracey lost everything and became homeless. Tracey stayed with friends for awhile and then at the mission. For two years she was on the streets. Her health was declining and she had knee, neck, and hand problems. Deep down she knew that "out there was not for her". Tracey came to VMC and with the help of her case manager, Dyrll Higdon, was able to work through her emotional issues. Tracey held herself accountable and followed Dyrll's direction working the program in the VMC Resource Center. She took classes which made her stronger and, in time, she gained back the confidence she had lost. In May, 2013 Tracey moved into her apartment at Montgomery Village.

Tracey said VMC gave her "structural strength and a purpose for

her life." She cherishes her apartment. She is involved in a weekly Bible Study at Montgomery Village. The Community Center has computers and she hopes to do some sort of work. Although she knows that working will be limited due to her degenerative bone disease, Tracey still wants to do what she can. Dyrll, her case manager, continues to work with Tracey and help as needed with transportation to doctor appointments. Tracey is grateful to Dyrll and VMC for the change in her life, and she acknowledges that she would not have survived without VMC.

This is why we are here – to help those out of the deepest and darkest times of their lives. Without the continued support we receive from our donors and volunteers, VMC would not be able to help people like Glenn, John, and Tracey. There are many more who need our assistance and we continue to reach out to the "least of them." Thank you for enabling us to make a difference in the lives of others – one person at a time.

LEASE SIGNINGS – NEW HOMES



John and Jamie received certificates for class completion and signed a lease to their new apartment



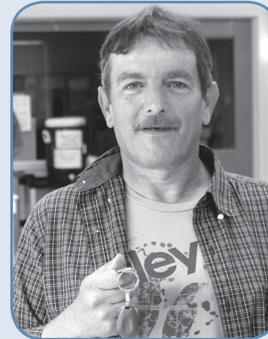
Terry proudly holds his new keychain for the key to his apartment



Kathy holds the key she received upon signing a lease to her apartment



The VMC keychain is presented to every person who achieves housing through The VMC Resource Center.



Troy is happy to show off his keychain to his new apartment

2015 YEAR TO DATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1,241 individuals received services through the Bush Family Refuge
- 325 individuals/families helped with utility assistance
- 51 individuals/families helped with rent assistance
- 136 Birth Certificates/ID's were obtained
- 451 patient visits in the VMC Dental Clinic
- 665 procedures performed in the VMC Dental Clinic
- 12,279 meals served in the Resource Center
- 5,330 volunteer hours in the Refuge and Resource Center
- 49 individuals have achieved housing in 2015
- 752 individuals have achieved housing since 2007

WISH LIST

- Deodorant
 - Lip Balm
 - Sunscreen
 - Insect Repellent
 - Toothbrushes and toothpaste
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Laundry detergent (HE)
 - Toilet paper & Paper Towels
 - Socks and underwear for men and women
 - Copy paper and Post-It notes
- Move-In basket Items:
- Plates
 - Pillows
- For a complete list of items please visit the HELP US section at www.vmcinc.org.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Lisa Hutton, Development and Community Relations Manager

Have you thought about getting involved with VMC by volunteering? Did you know we have a Get Acquainted With VMC time for potential volunteers on the third Tuesday of each month to share information on VMC programs and provide a tour of our facility? Volunteer is our first name and we do have

opportunities for involvement. So, if you have been thinking on how to get plugged in, please join us for one of these segments. Our next one is set for August 18th at 4:30 in our admin offices. For more information, contact Lisa Hutton at 524-3926x230 or via email at lhutton@vmcinc.org. We look forward to seeing you!



THE W-WORD

Do you know about the W-word? It is a very simple word, not dry or confusing. It is a word that a lot of Americans don't even know what it is, much less take the time to think about. There are four letters in this word and those four letters can mean the difference between a gift for a charitable organization or the loss of substantial income to members of a family. So, what is this word? Simple, it is a WILL. Don't let Uncle Sam handle your Estate plans for you. Without a WILL, the

government will pursue the maximum tax possible. However, with proactive planning you can take advantage of the many rules that have been created to minimize taxes. Save your family the anguish of having to settle your affairs without the advantage of a WILL. Prepare one now, and consider including a gift to VMC. For additional information on Estate Planning, please contact the VMC Development Department at 524-3926.

CARRY THE TORCH 2016



John Quiñones

Make plans now to attend Carry the Torch 2016 which will be on April 20 of next year. This annual event is VMC's signature fundraiser and features a prominent nationally recognized author who will speak on issues relevant to the work of VMC.

We are pleased to share that the 2016 speaker will be Emmy award winning anchor and author, John Quiñones. He is the sole anchor of the Primetime series *What Would You Do?*, one of the highest rated newsmagazine franchises in recent years, and he has authored two books, *What Would You*

Do? Words of Wisdom About Doing the Right Thing, and Heroes Among Us: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Choices.

Mr. Quiñones has won seven national Emmy Awards for his "Primetime Live," "Burning Questions" and "20/20" work. He was honored with a World Hunger Media Award and a Citation from the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards for "To Save the Children," his 1990 report on the homeless children of Bogota. Among his other prestigious awards are the First Prize in International Reporting and Robert F. Kennedy Prize for his piece on "Modern Slavery -- Children Sugar Cane Cutters in the Dominican Republic."

Mark your calendars now for this memorable event. For more information on Carry the Torch Knoxville, contact Mary Beth Ramey at 524-3926 or mramey@vmcinc.org.



Volunteer Ministry Center
Compassion • Accountability • Results

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www.vmcinc.org

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Summer 2015

Dear Friend of VMC,

As you may or may not be aware, Beth Ogburn resigned from the Volunteer Ministry Center on June 19th to pursue other opportunities. Best wishes and success is extended to Beth in her newest venture.

In the interim, I have been appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer. I appreciate this opportunity and am dedicated to the work of VMC. I will labor diligently to insure VMC's "good name" that has been earned throughout the years.

Often, in the past nine years in my time with VMC, I have been asked why I do what I do. Working on the "Broadway Corridor" with individuals struggling with the experience of homelessness and addictive disorders comes out of a simple desire to make a difference. I am privileged to be part of a group effort in making a difference.

Like many of you, my family has its share of loved ones who struggle and often stumble with addictive and/or mental health disorders and other life issues that are challenging at best and debilitating, if not life destroying, at worst. I guess, like many of my colleagues, both staff and volunteers, we come together to serve and be present with others out of the desire to make a difference. Volunteer Ministry Center has and is making a difference and it starts at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Broadway.

With the on-set of early and higher than usual temperatures, the demand for assistance from families with high utility bills has and will be increased more than usual. Yet, the Bush Family Refuge will make a difference with many households.

Having a place of one's own is a huge difference to someone without one. Through the Resource Center, in the first six months of 2015, forty-nine people now reside in their own home. Safe, secure, and nestled are those forty-nine individuals. The Resource Center is making a difference.

If Mark Twain is correct in that "wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been," then the Dental Clinic is making a difference in creating both! Over 21 people have received dentures and over 430 patient visits have been recorded. What a difference!

Minvilla Manor is presently home to 56 residents. All residents have experienced homelessness for a long period of time with a need for a moderate level of support to maintain their housing. Through the support staff of case management and volunteers, a huge difference is being made in the lives of each through an intentional and purposeful community.

At the conclusion of everyday, VMC is making a difference and you are part of that difference. Consider a gift to assist with helping a family with a part of their utility bill or insuring that another finds a home. Your gift can make a smile from a frown, or enrich a resident at Minvilla Manor. Be part of making a difference.

Odds are that we quickly find that the biggest difference being made is in ourselves when we are serving and present with others.

I invite you to give as generously as you can,

Bruce Spangler
Chief Executive Officer - Interim



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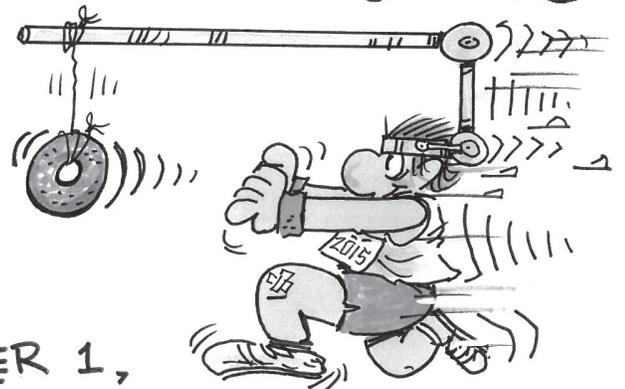
Here's What's Inside

- Alumni Edition
- From the Director's Desk
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- Wish List
- Calling All Volunteers!
- The W-Word
- Carry the Torch 2016
- VMC Dunkin' Donuts Run & Eat 5K

VMC DUNKIN' DONUTS RUN & EAT 5K RACE

Plans are underway for the VMC Dunkin' Donuts Run and Eat 5K Race. We have a new location this year. We decided to take our race to West Knox County so we are hosting the race at Hardin Valley Elementary School with the actual donut eating on the Pellissippi State Community College campus. Sunday, November 1st, is our date and we will start at 2:00pm. There will be lots of activities for the whole family. Mark your calendars now to join us on November 1st. Entry forms and participant information will be available August 10th. For additional information contact Lisa Hutton at 524-3926 x230 or via email at lhutton@vmcinc.org.

VMC DUNKIN' DONUTS'



NOVEMBER 1,
2015

RUN AND EAT

DANIEL